

23 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Proposal of G-2 for an NIE in Support of National Policies with Respect to Southeast Asia

1. On 9 February, General Willems circulated to the IAC a requirement of the Army planners for an intelligence estimate on possible Chinese courses of action in Indochina. (IAC-M-140, paras. 3 and 4) TAB "A"

2. On 16 February, General Willems circulated a more detailed statement of this proposal, including a set of assumptions, and draft terms of reference (IAC-M-141, para. 8). TAB "B"

3. Members of the IAC were asked to telephone to ONE their concurrence in or comments on the proposal. To date, unqualified concurrences have been received from State and Navy. Air Force agreed generally but had reservations regarding the authority of the assumptions. JIG raised the critical question: should the IAC undertake an estimate based on assumptions prepared by one Service without reference to either the JCS or the NSC?

4. The Board believes that the estimate proposed by G-2 (a) cannot be done without assumptions, and (b) should not be done unless the assumptions have been approved either by the Joint Planners, or by the NSC Planning Board.

5. Recommendation

That you discuss this matter of principle with General Willems and request that he undertake to clear his assumptions with the JCS Planners or the NSC Planning Board before the estimate is formally undertaken by the IAC.

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SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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